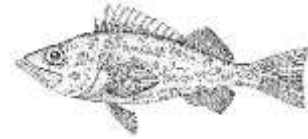

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
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Date: June 26, 2012
Time: 12:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMENDED EASTERN GULF OF ALASKA GROUNDFISH REGULATIONS

Sitka... The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced today that new and amended groundfish regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) in March 2012 will be effective on July 13, 2012. Following is a summary of the regulatory changes. For full regulatory language, refer to the new regulation booklets which should be available at local department area offices in mid-July.

SUBSISTENCE/PERSONAL USE

5 AAC 01.714. A person on board a vessel from which a longline was used to take groundfish for subsistence uses in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) or Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistricts may not operate commercial longline gear for groundfish from that vessel until all subsistence taken groundfish are offloaded from the vessel.

5 AAC 01.730/5 AAC 77.674. Personal use and subsistence fishing permits will be required for the personal use and subsistence harvest of sablefish in Southeastern Alaska. Information required on the permit includes, but is not limited to date, gear type, location, and number of sablefish. Permits will be available at local department area offices in early July 2012.

SABLEFISH

5 AAC 28.110(c). The department is no longer required to randomly select from a pool of interested permit holders when authorizing the take of sablefish outside of established fishing seasons for research purposes. Removal of the random selection process will streamline the procedure for participation of permit holders in department sablefish longline surveys.

5 AAC 28.170(g). Permit holders in the SSEI sablefish fishery are required to retain all visibly injured or dead sablefish. Sablefish that are not visibly injured or dead may be released unharmed, but the permit holder must record live releases, by individual set, in a logbook.

5 AAC 28.180(a). A vessel or person onboard a vessel from which commercial, subsistence, or personal use longline fishing gear was used to take fish in the NSEI or SSEI Subdistricts during the 72-hour period immediately before the start of the commercial sablefish fishery in that subdistrict, or from which that gear will be used during the 24-hour period immediately after the closure of the commercial sablefish fishery in that subdistrict, may not participate in the taking of sablefish in that subdistrict during that open

sablefish fishing period. A vessel or a person onboard a vessel who has harvested and sold their entire equal quota share before the final day of the sablefish season in that subdistrict is exempt from the prohibition on fishing longline gear during the 24-hour period immediately following the closure of the sablefish fishery in that subdistrict.

5 AAC 28.180(b). A vessel or a person on board a vessel commercial fishing for sablefish in the NSEI or SSEI Subdistricts may not operate subsistence or personal use longline gear for groundfish from that vessel until all sablefish harvested in the commercial fishery are offloaded from the vessel.

LINGCOD

5 AAC 28.106(f). The Icy Bay Subdistrict (IBS) is a superexclusive registration area for Commercial Fishery Entry Commission (CFEC) permit holders and vessels participating in the directed lingcod fishery. A CFEC permit holder that participates in the directed commercial taking of lingcod in the IBS may not participate or have participated in the directed commercial taking of lingcod as a CFEC permit holder in any other registration area during that calendar year. A vessel used in the directed commercial taking of lingcod in the IBS, may not be used or have been used in the directed commercial taking of lingcod in any other registration area or portion of a registration area during that calendar year.

5 AAC 28.165(a)(1). The department shall allocate the annual IBS lingcod guideline harvest level (GHL) as follows:

Commercial directed lingcod fishery-	46.66%
Sport fishery-	33.33%
Commercial longline fishery bycatch-	12%
Commercial salmon troll bycatch-	8%

Note: The 2012 IBS commercial lingcod GHL was harvested prior to implementation of the new commercial allocations and the IBS commercial lingcod season was closed on May 23, 2012.

5 AAC 28.130(h). The board clarified that when operating dinglebar troll gear, only one troll gurdy with a terminally attached weight may be deployed in the water at any time.

BLACK ROCKFISH

5 AAC 28.116. The open fishing period for black rockfish was defined in regulation as January 1 through December 31, unless closed by emergency order.

PACIFIC COD

5 AAC 28.115. The open fishing period for Pacific cod was defined in regulation as January 1 through December 31, unless closed by emergency order.

BAIT USEAGE

5 AAC 28.190(1). Sablefish, lingcod, thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye, and yelloweye rockfish may not be taken as bait or used for bait, however the head, tail, fins, and viscera of delivered and processed commercial sablefish, lingcod, thornyhead, shortraker, rougheye, and yelloweye rockfish may be used for bait.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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